

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A switching network forms part of a digital cross-connect for connecting data frames between requested inputs and outputs, and includes an input stage, an intermediate stage, and an output stage, each of which consists of a plurality of switching matrices. Each input stage switching matrix has a link to each intermediate stage switching matrix, and each intermediate stage switching matrix has a link to each output stage switching matrix. Individual time-slots of incoming data frames are independently routed through the switching matrices, reducing the possibility of blocking taking place.